INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:	**SUBMITTED TO:**
This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of a member of the Commonwealth Forces, during the Great War 1914-1921.	CWGC Commemorations Section Commonwealth War Graves Commission 2 Marlow Road Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX United Kingdom Email: commemorations@cwgc.org

Report Date: *15 August 2019*

Reason for Submission: *("X" means purpose of the report)*

Casualty Identification:		**Burial Information:**	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: *(# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)*

Casualty Identification:		**Burial Information:**	
Rogers, Reginald Clarence	i	Serre Road Cemetery No. 2	*link*
1st Bn, Royal Marine Light Infantry	i	Somme, France	i
CSM #CH/15594	i	Plot 5 Row E Grave 25	i
Death: 26 March 1918	*link*	Date Change: 12 June 1923	i
Graves Registration Report	*1*	War Diary Extract(s)	*7a-c*
Concentration of Grave	*2*	Casualty Card	
Exhumation Report		Grave Stone Photograph	
Headstone Register	3	Grave Stone Inscription	
Area Map(s)	4	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Trench Map(s)	5	Historical Reference Text	8 *a-b*
Possible Candidates List	6	Reporting and Review	9

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 5 Row E Grave 25 lists an unknown C.S.M. (*Company Sergeant Major*) of the R.M.L.I. (*Royal Marine Light Infantry*) buried in Plot 5 Row E Grave 25 of the Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Somme France.

A review of all of the evidence for this case is conclusive that these are the remains of Company Sergeant Major Reginald Clarence Rogers #CH/15594 of the 1st Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was killed in action on 26 March 1918 during *Operation Michael*, fighting a rearguard action toward Thiepval while withdrawing to Hamel.

Details of Findings:

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Graves Registration Report* Form (GRRF 2616446) lists an Unknown Company Sergeant Major of the Royal Marine Light Infantry buried in Plot 5 Row E Grave 25 of the Serre Road Cemetery No. 2 in the Somme Sector of France (**57d.K.35.a.1.0**). There is no date of death or battalion stated for the soldier (Attachment #1).

2. The *Concentration of Graves Burial Return* (COG-BR 2618609) contains the same information as the GRRF and further specifies that the soldier was identified based on his uniform, boots, buttons and badge off rank (Attachment #2). The remains were recovered at **57d.Q.29.b.6.9**, which places him on the edge of the River Ancre, due west of Thiepval. The Royal Marine Light Infantry (LLT – 63rd Royal Naval Division) saw action in the Somme Sector on four (4) occasions, one or more of which will match the location of the remains:

    - Battle of Ancre (Somme 13-18 November 1916)
    - Operations on the Ancre (January-March 1917)
    - Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March 1918)
    - Battle of Albert (21-23 August 1918)

3. The *Headstone Schedule* (HD-SCHD 2743537) tells us that the identity of the soldier was not recorded at that time, thus he remains as an "Unknown Company Sergeant Major, a Royal Marine" (Attachment #3). The current availability of the historic records now provides the capability to match the location of the remains to the names of men that were lost at that specific location and have no known grave.

4. The *Area Map* from the McMaster Lloyd Reed Collection shows the general area of the Somme where the Royal Marine Light Infantry saw action in the Great War in the vicinity of the remains in sector **57d.Q.29**, near the River Ancre (Attachment #4). The remains were recovered southeast of Beaumont-Hamel, between the villages of Hamel and Thiepval. The River Ancre can be seen passing directly through this area.

5. A *Trench Map* provides greater detail of the location of the remains on the west side of the River Ancre (Attachment #5). This places the remains approximately 500 yards due south of Hamel and 2,000 yards northwest of Thiepval, between the road and a rail line.

6. A list of *Possible Candidates* was derived from the CWGC database of war dead (Attachment #6). Note that the database reveals the RMLI CSMs only with the spelling as "Company Ser**g**eant Major", whereas all other British casualties of that rank are listed as "Company Ser**j**eant Major". All variations were checked to make sure no men were missing on the list of candidates.

Of the ten (10) Company Sergeant Majors of the Royal Marine Light Infantry lost in the Great War, five (5) are in France and four (4) of these have no known grave. Company Sergeant Major Henry Hamilton Eastwood is the only casualty that has a known grave in the Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel.

There are no reported cases of a Company Sergeant Major of the Royal Marine Light Infantry being listed on a Special Memorial in any cemetery.

There were seven (7) casualties in the Great War of men showing the Royal Marine Light Infantry as their "Secondary Regiment" (CWGC Link). None of these men showed the rank of Company Sergeant Major.

7. The *War Diary* entries for each of the 1st and 2nd Battalion of the Royal Marine Light Infantry were consulted to determine which of the four (4) candidates were in the specific area where the remains were recovered (Attachment #7).

    - John Campbell 26 April 1917 2nd RMLI (Attachment #7a): North of Gavrelle (**51b.B.30.b** / **51b.C.25.a**) on the 24th where there was heavy artillery and air action on the 25th and 26th (war diary page 132 of 333). Three (3) other ranks reported killed. This puts him out of the area, as he was lost south of Oppy to the northeast of Arras.

    - Richard Milne 28 April 1917 2nd RMLI: Same as Campbell above, lost in an attack northeast of Gavrelle. Heavy casualties were reported.

    - Reginald Rogers 26 March 1918 1st RMLI (Attachment #7b): In Martinpuich on the 25th and fighting rearguard action to Thiepval, where they remained the night of 25th and 26th. Ordered to withdraw across the River Ancre to Hamel on the 26th, where they took up a defensive position (war diary page 115 of 178). That places C.S.M. Rogers at the location where the remains were recovered at **57d.Q.29.b.6.9**.

    - Thomas Boyd 25 August 1918 1st RMLI (Attachment #7c): On the western edge of Loupart Wood (**57c.G.34**) on the 24th, where they attacked enemy positions on the morning of the 25th (war diary page 149 of 178). This places them to the southwest of Grevillers, about 4,000 yards west of Bapaume. He is out of the area where the remains were found.

    As part of the research on the historical documents, the records for the known Company Sergeant Major Henry Eastwood were also checked, as his remains were recovered in close proximity to the unknown candidate at **57d.Q.18.a** (COG-BR 1965555). He was killed in action on 4 February 1917, two (2) months prior to the deaths of Campbell and Milne. At the time of his death he was serving with the 190th Machine Gun Company, 63rd (Naval) Division. Details of the action at that time (war diary page 342 of 520), places the company in the trenches at Beaucourt. He was the sole member of the company killed in action that day. For clarification, there are no Company Sergeant Majors that were killed in that action listed on a memorial for the unknown.

The war diary information leaves little doubt that the remains are those of Company Sergeant Major Reginald Clarence Rogers. The 1st Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry withdrew from Bertincourt (**57c.P.12**) on the 24th to Martinpuich (**57c.M.32**). From there they moved west toward Thiepval on the 25th and crossed the River Ancre to Hamel on the 26th. It was at that time and location that Company Sergeant Major Rogers was killed.

If the remains of Company Sergeant Major Eastwood had not been recovered and buried in the Ancre British Cemetery, then it would not have been possible to arrive at this firm conclusion. The two sets of remains were only 2,000 yards apart. Eastwood's remains were recovered by the 148th Labour Company on or before 8 October 1919. The set of "unknown remains" were recovered on or about 12 June 1923.

8. The *Record of the Royal Marines* during the Great War (Blumberg 1927) provides additional details on each of the actions described in this report (Attachment #8a). There were no men holding the rank of Company Sergeant Major lost during the Operations on the Ancre (13-18 November 1916) or the Operations on the Ancre (January-March 1917). It was not until the R.M.L.I. was involved in the Battle of Bapaume in March 1918 that a C.S.M. was lost in the area where the remains were recovered (Attachment #8b). The historical text confirms the understanding derived from the war diary.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #9).

The evidence is clear that the remains that were recovered at **57d.Q.29.b.6.9** can only be those of Company Sergeant Major Reginald Rogers #CH/15594 of the 1st Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry, 63rd (Naval) Division.

ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Graves Registration Report Form*.
http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2616446.JPG

Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Comprehensive Report.

Communes:- Beaumont-Hamel & Hébuterne. REPORT No. 93. SCHEDULE No. 209c.

PLACE OF BURIAL Serre Road Cemetery, No. 2.

Map Reference 57d. K.35. a.1.0.
All Concentrations.

The following are buried here:— Plot 5, Row E.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave Grave No.
5th S.R. rifles	6343.	Mc Laws.	Pte. J.	20-7-16.	E.	18.
	Two Unknown British Soldiers.			-	E.	19.
	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	20.
	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	21.
K.R.R.	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	22.
R.M.L.I.	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	23.
R.M.L.I.	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	24.
R.M.L.I.	Unknown British Soldier.		C.S.M.	-	E.	25.
25/A.I.F.	1022 ~~Unknown Australian Soldier.~~	WINSTONE	Pte. A.E.F.	5-8-16	E.	26.
	Unknown Australian Soldier.			-	E.	27.
	Unknown Australian Soldier.			-	E.	28.
14/A.I.F.	4189.	Featherstone.	Pte. A.L.	8-8-16.	E.	29.
	Unknown Australian Soldier.			-	E.	30.
	Unknown Australian Soldier.			-	E.	31.
	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	32.
	Unknown British Soldier.			-	E.	33.
25/A.I.F.	1013 ~~401~~	Watson.	G.	5.8.16	E.	34.

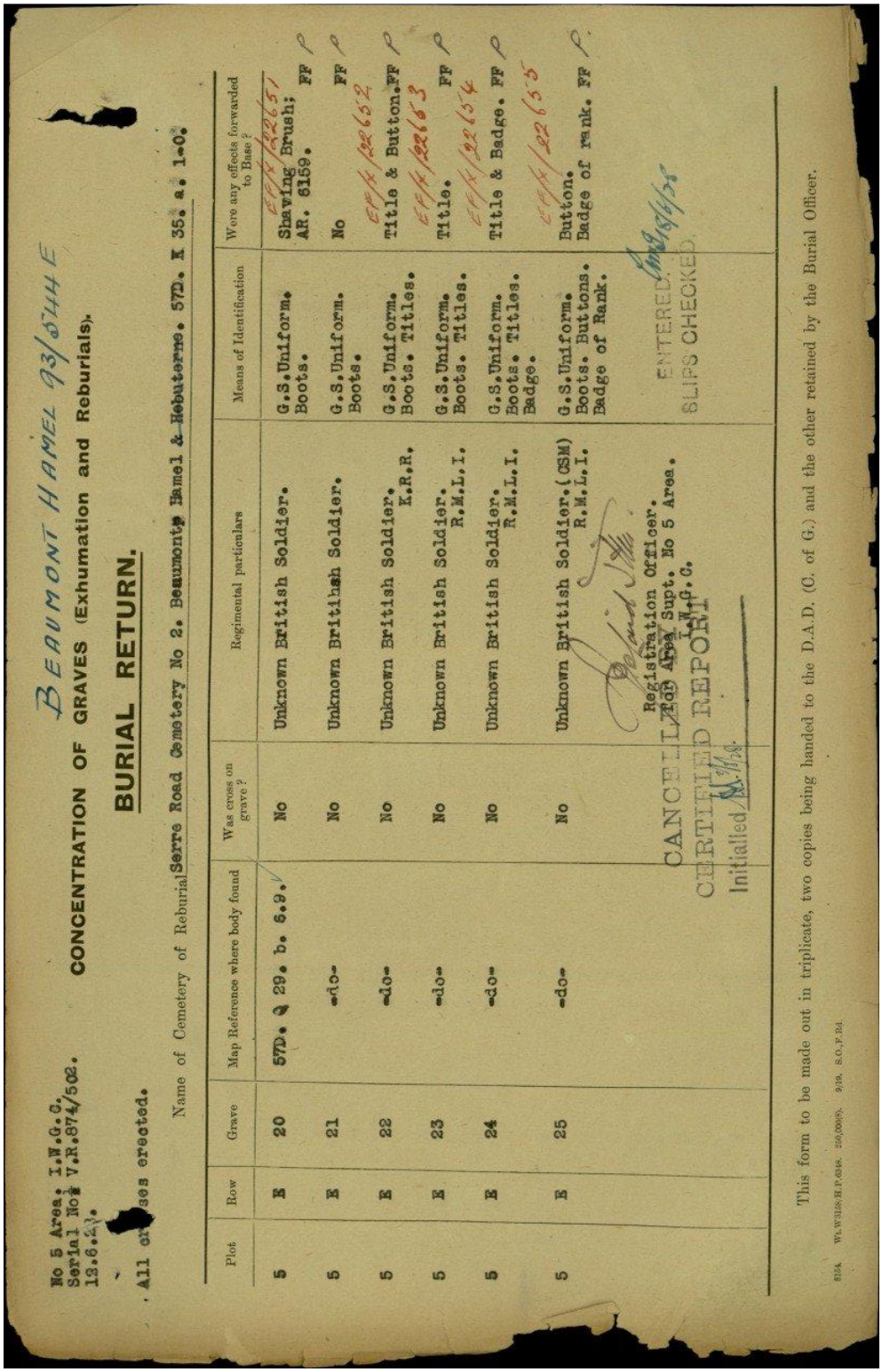
ENTERED SLIPS CHECKED. 7.8.28

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms/W3372/3

2093

ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return*. http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2618609.JPG



No 5 Area. I.W.G.C.
Serial No. V.R.874/502.
12.6.21.

BEAUMONT HAMEL 93/SHE

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

BURIAL RETURN.

All crosses erected.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial Serre Road Cemetery No 2. Beaumont Hamel & Hebuterne. 57D. I 35. a. 1.0.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
5	E	20	57D. Q 29. b. 6.9.	No	Unknown British Soldier.	G.S.Uniform. Boots.	EFF/22651 Shaving Brush; AR. 6159. FF
5	E	21	-do-	No	Unknown British Soldier.	G.S.Uniform. Boots.	EFF/22652 No FF
5	E	22	-do-	No	Unknown British Soldier. K.R.R.	G.S.Uniform. Boots. Titles.	EFF/22653 Title & Button. FF
5	E	23	-do-	No	Unknown British Soldier. R.M.L.I.	G.S.Uniform. Boots. Titles.	EFF/22654 Title. FF
5	E	24	-do-	No	Unknown British Soldier. R.M.L.I.	G.S.Uniform. Boots. Titles. Badge.	EFF/22655 Title & Badge. FF
5	E	25	-do-	No	Unknown British Soldier.(CSM) R.M.L.I.	G.S.Uniform. Boots. Buttons. Badge of Rank.	EFF/22656 Button. Badge of rank. FF

Registration Officer.
No 5 Area Supt. No 5 Area.
I.W.G.C.

CANCELLED
CERTIFIED REPORT
Initialled

ENTERED
SLIPS CHECKED

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ATTACHMENT #3

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions*.
https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2743537.JPG

No. of Contract ____ dated ____
Name and Address of Firm.

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Schedule "A" Page 10
Name of Cemetery.
SERRE ROAD CEM. NO. 2. "H"
To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
SERRE RD. C.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death. In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.	Age.	Centre of Stone. Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row R. Grave G.	No. of Stone.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1202/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	27TH BN. CANADIAN INF. 33			CROSS	5 E 12	3071
1200/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	25TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. 35			CROSS	5 E 13	3072
1200/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. 35			CROSS	5 E 14	3073
1200/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	AN AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT 36			CROSS	5 E 15	3074
1200/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	AN AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT 36			CROSS	5 E 16	3075
1202/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	~~14TH~~ 18TH BN. CANADIAN INF. 33			CROSS	5 E 17	3076
1C53/1A	6343 CORPORAL	J. MC LAWS 7	THE CAMERONIANS (SCO. RIF.) 46	20TH JULY 1916	NONE	CROSS	5 E 18	3077
LAYOUT 1H	TWO SOLDIERS	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	16			CROSS	5 E 19	3078
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	16			CROSS	5 E 20	~~3079~~ 3079 *
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21				CROSS	5 E 21	3080
1029/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS 36			CROSS	5 E 22	3081
1204/1G	A ROYAL MARINE	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	16			CROSS	5 E 23	3082
1204/1G	A ROYAL MARINE	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	16			CROSS	5 E 24	3083
1204/1G	A ROYAL MARINE	OF THE GREAT WAR 21	UNKNOWN C. SERJT. MAJOR 34			CROSS	5 E 25	3084
1200/1G	1022 PRIVATE	A.E.F. WINSTONE 11	~~25TH~~ 35 BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. 48	5TH AUGUST 1916	AGE 22	CROSS	5 E 26	3085

29
225
254

452
461
913

* The above headstone was damaged by frost, and replaced by a surplus stone, bearing the following particulars:-

UNKNOWN PRIVATE
BORDER REGIMENT

Ex. WAggon Road Cem. Stone No. 132.

Should it be necessary to make a further replacement at any time, the original particulars should of course be engraved on the new stone.

Ref:- WK/313/E/15. dated 15/5/1931.

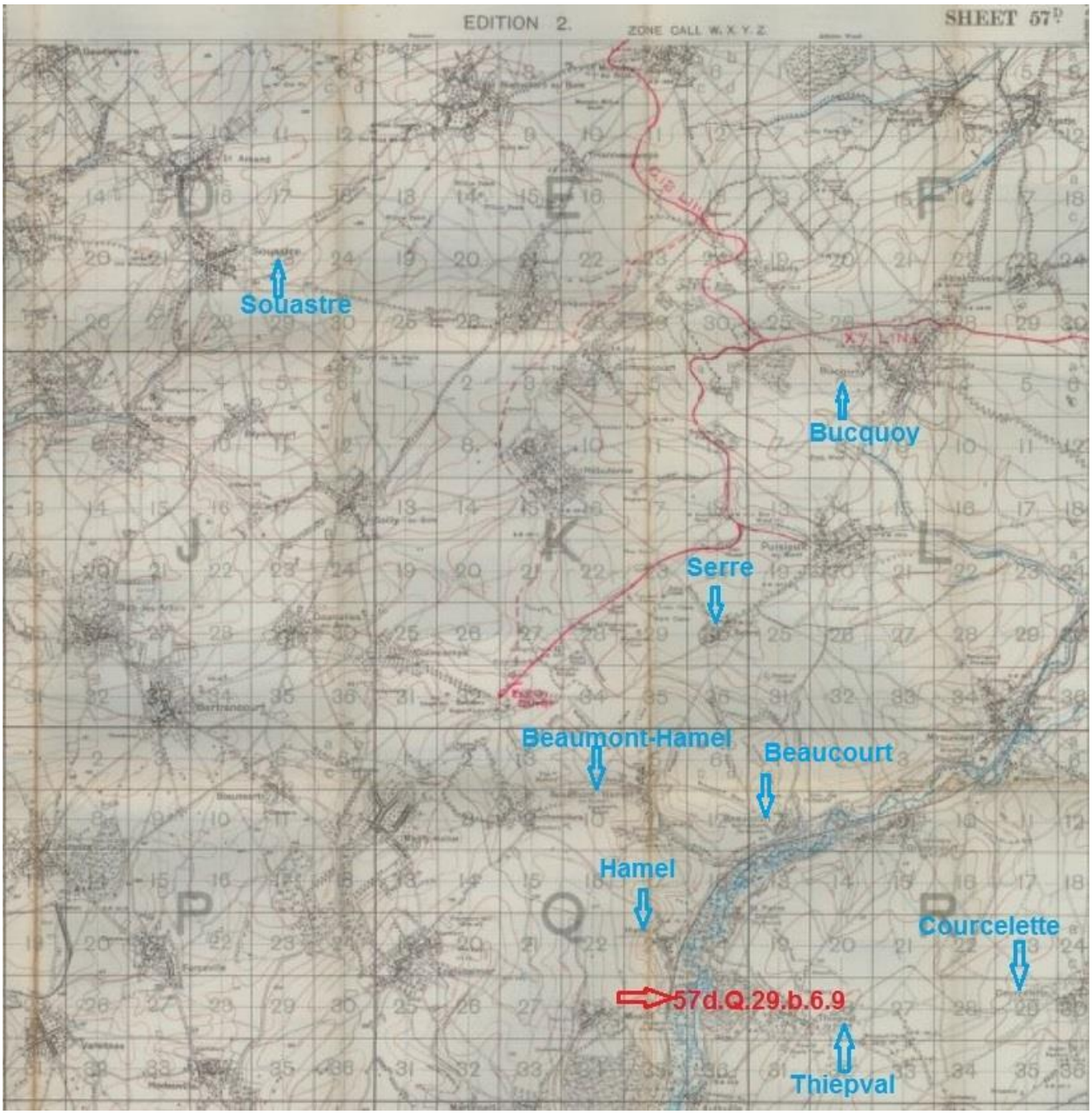
ERECTED REF:- WK/3.2/A/11. d:- 11-1-32.

* These headstones are not to be executed until further orders.

Proof Checked.
Final Check No. 1.
Office Copy Prepared.
Final Check No. 2.

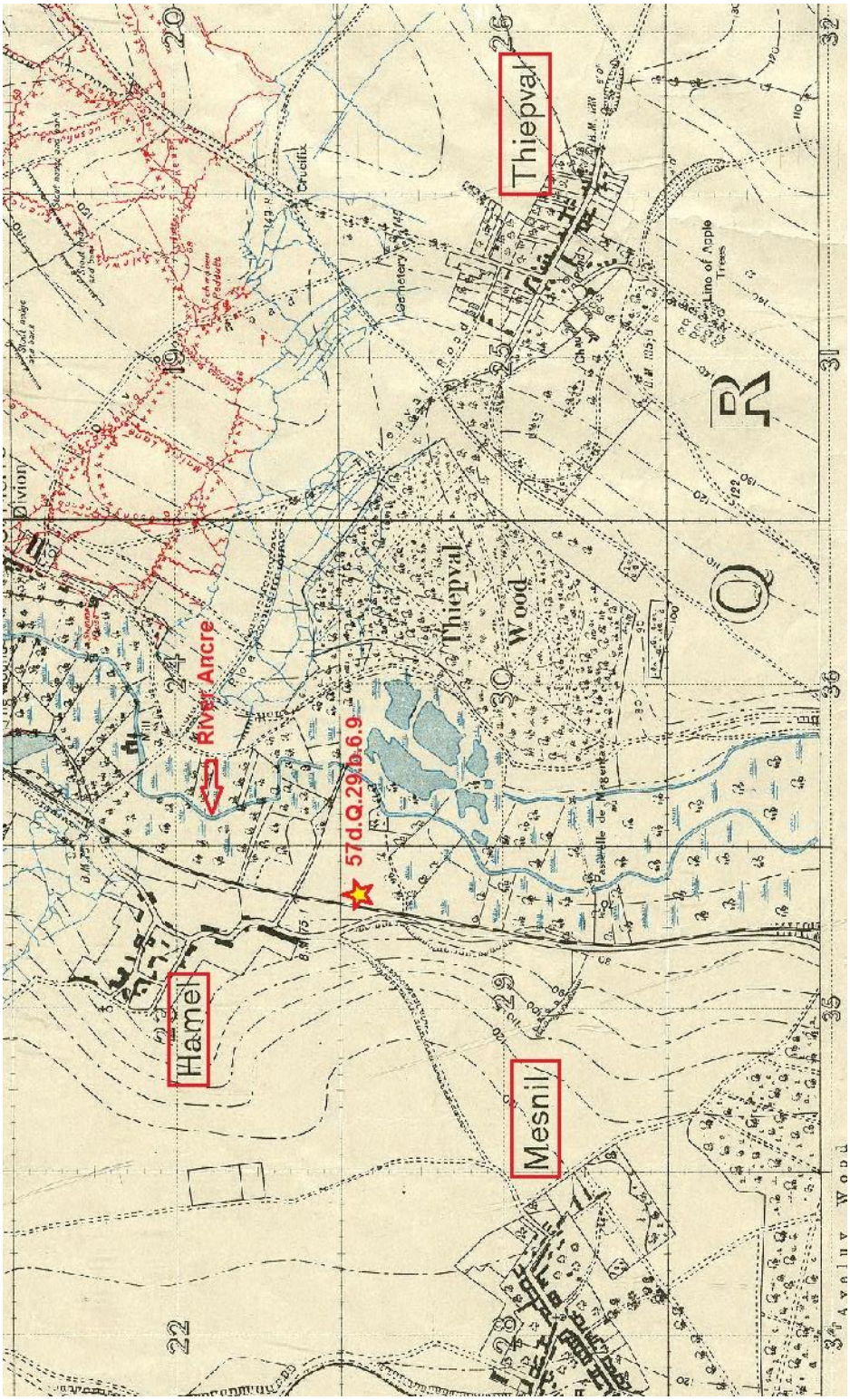
ATTACHMENT #4

Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Albert 390WW1MAP.
http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4337/-/collection



ATTACHMENT #5

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas.57cNW4 Beaumont Edition 2E Map wo297_1496 Trenches Corrected 14/10/1916. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.



ATTACHMENT #6

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*
https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead

Company Sergeant Majors of the Royal Marine Light Infantry with No Known Grave in France

surname	forename	death	Royal Marine Light Infantry	#
BOYD	THOMAS	25-08-18	1st R.M. Bn. R.N. Div.	'PLY/12524'
CAMPBELL	JOHN	26-04-17	2nd R.M. Bn. R.N. Div.	'PLY/10131'
MILNE	RICHARD	28-04-17	2nd R.M. Bn. R.N. Div.	'PO/10828'
ROGERS	REGINALD CLARENCE	26-03-18	1st R.M. Bn. R.N. Div.	'CH/15594'

Last name Rank Service Number	First names or initials	Date of death Age Cemetery/memorial Grave Reference/Panel Number	Regiment Country of service
MILNE Company Sergeant Major PO/10828	RICHARD	Saturday, April 28, 1917 ARRAS MEMORIAL Bay 1.	Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
CAMPBELL Company Sergeant Major PLY/10131	JOHN	Thursday, April 26, 1917 Age 28 ARRAS MEMORIAL Addenda Panel 1.	Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
EASTWOOD Company Sergeant Major CH/10417	HENRY HAMILTON	Sunday, February 4, 1917 Age 36 ANCRE BRITISH CEMETERY, BEAUMONT-HAMEL VIII. D. 32.	Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
ROGERS Company Sergeant Major CH/15594	REGINALD CLARENCE	Tuesday, March 26, 1918 ARRAS MEMORIAL Bay 1.	Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
BOYD Company Sergeant Major PLY/12524	THOMAS	Sunday, August 25, 1918 VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL Panel 1.	Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom

ATTACHMENT #7a

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Piece 3110/2: 2 Royal Marine Battalion (26-30 April 1917)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

3

WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~. April 1917
(*Erase heading not required.*)

Army Form C. 2118.

2nd Bn Royal Marine Light Inf.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAVRELLE Trenches	April 26th		Village heavily shelled all day. Aircraft active on both sides. One of our balloons set fire to. wire cutting in the afternoon. Casualties missing, Temp Lieut MARKHAM. Killed other ranks 3 wounded other ranks 30	
	27th		Hostile artillery more than usually active during early morning. At about 8.0 a.m. one of our aeroplanes was brought down South of OPPY WOOD by hostile AA fire. Bde proceeded to Assembly position ready for attack. Casualties killed other ranks 8. wounded other ranks 14 missing other ranks 4.	
	28th	4.25 a.m.	Batts attacked in 4 waves the enemy trenches N.E. of GAVRELLE with one platoon under 2nd Lt NEWLING detailed to take the windmill. The windmill on the left of the Bn front ~~[illegible]~~ was reached and held but as 1st Batts Rmt.d on our left and 2nd Div. on their left were hung up owing to a large number of machine guns apparently by wire, casualties were very heavy. Only two Officers besides the Officer Comd & Adjt who took part in the operations came out alive. Casualties Killed Officers 1 other ranks 25 wounded other ranks 72. Missing Officers 8 other ranks 387.	
	29th		Situation unchanged. Enemy made several violent counter attacks. Casualties wounded Offrs 14	
	30th	2.30 a.m.	Bn relieved by 15th & 18th East Yorks. Marched back to St CATHERINES	

A. R. H. Hutchison
Lieut Colonel Rmt.d
Commanding 2nd Bn Royal Marine Lt Inf.

T2134. Wt. W708—776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

ATTACHMENT #7b

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Piece 3110/1: 1 Royal Marine Battalion (24-26 March 1916)

1/Bn Royal Marines

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(*Erase heading not required.*)

Army Form C. 2118.

Sheet No. 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BETINCOURT	24/3/18		Bn ordered to withdraw from BERTINCOURT & proceed to BAPAUME-PERONNE ROAD thence to MARTINPUICH.	No Prop to Ad
MARTINPUICH	25/3/18		Bn in conjunction with remainder of Bde; fought rearguard action to THIEPUAL, where Bde; took up a position & remained there during the night 25/26th/3/18.	No Prop to Ad
THIEPUAL	26/3/18		Ordered to Withdraw across RIVER ANCRE to HAMEL, where the Batt. took up a defensive position. Relieved by 1Bn The Queens & proceeded to MARTINSART into billets	No Prop to Ad
			Cont'd	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

ATTACHMENT #7c

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Piece 3110/1: 1 Royal Marine Battalion (24-28 August 1918)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~.
(*Erase heading not required.*)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLUEINE	24.	5.00 a.m.	Battalion marched to WESTERN edge of LOUPART WOOD and Bivouacked for the night.	
LOUPART WOOD	25.	5.30 a.m.	Battalion attacked enemy positions FIRST OBJECTIVE Track running NE from G35.d.5.05. to G36.c20.40. FINAL " Eastern edge of the village of LE BARQUE First objective reached at 5.40 a.m. Final objective reached at 6.30 a.m. and position immediately consolidated Through this operation, 150 prisoners, 2 French Mortars and 20 machine Guns along with much War Material was captured Immediately after gaining our objective, enemy made futile attempts to drive us from our positions but was repulsed with heavy losses. Throughout the day the enemy attempted to mass for counter-attack but the prompt action on the part of our Lewis Gun and Rifle fire frustrated all attempts and at the end of the day our line was intact.	
	26.		Our Patrols were active	
	27.		Isolated enemy activity	
	28	4.30	Battalion was relieved by 8th Batt MANCHESTERS and proceeded to MIRAMONT in Bivouac	

Casualties

Killed		Died of Wounds		Wounded		Missing	
Off.	O.Rs.	Off.	O.Rs.	Off.	O.Rs.	Off.	O.Rs.
3.	46		7.	12.	260		31

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5500/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 For 88/C2118/16

ATTACHMENT #8

Blumberg, H. E. (Herbert Edward), 1869-1934. Britain's Sea Soldiers: A Record of the Royal Marines During the War 1914-1919. Devonport: Swiss & Co, 1927. (On-line version on the site of the HathiTrust)

Extracts are summarized as follows:

- **Battle of Ancre (Somme 13-18 November 1916) - no CSM missing**
  - the operation is discussed on page 317, which is definitely in the sector
  - had there been a missing CSM then we probably could not have identified the remains

- **Operations on the Ancre (January-March 1917) – no CSM missing**
  - the operation is discussed starting on page 322

- **The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April 1917) – no CSM missing**
  - details the capture of Gavrelle at this time on page 327
  - east of Bailleul, opposite Oppy

- **The Battle of Arleux (28-29 April 1917) - CSM Campbell and Milne lost on 28 April 1917**
  - page 327 reports on the Battle of Arleux on the 28 and 29th April 1917
  - they were to attack the Gavrelle Windmill
  - CSM Rogers was there and "rendered a very good service" but he survived that day
  - CSM Chapman is reported being taken prisoner and died of wounds in Germany (May 1917), the CWGC has him buried in Belgium (CWGC Link). His COG-BR 2366408 tells us that he was buried in a German grave in the Tournai cemetery and moved slightly when the cemetery was restructured after the war.

- **Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March 1918) - CSM Rogers 26 March 1918**
  - the account of operations for 1918 starts on page 338
  - the rear-guard action back to Thiepval is reported on page 344
  - there is a reference to their defensive position, formed in part by the Arras-Albert railway, where the remains were recovered
  - the 1st R.M.L.I. is reported to be 300 yards east of Mesnil (**57d.Q.29**)

- **Battle of Albert (21-23 August 1918) - CSM Boyd 25 August 1918**
  - this account of operations starts on page 351, with action on the 25th on page 356
  - the first objective of the 1st R.M.L.I. was the Grevillers Trench between Grevillers and Loupart Wood, with a final objective at Le Barque

ATTACHMENT #8b

Blumberg, H. E. (Herbert Edward), 1869-1934. Britain's Sea Soldiers: A Record of the Royal Marines During the War 1914-1919. Devonport: Swiss & Co, 1927. (On-line version on the site of the HathiTrust) (extract of the text on pages 344-345)

The 188th then fought a rearguard action back to Thiepval where they established themselves in a strong outpost position for the night with the object of securing the bridges over the river Ancre, preparatory to effecting a crossing the next day. General Coleridge held a conference of his Commanding Officers and Adjutants on top of Thiepval Ridge, and it was here that the Brigade-Major, Major Thompson, was wounded by a H.E. shell. At this time Lieut.-Colonel Kirkpatrick, commanding the Anson, who had done splendid work during the retreat, was killed.

Whilst the enemy continued to press on the northern and southern extremities of the valley, the 188th passed a quiet night after five days of almost incessant fighting and marching.

At dusk the Royal Naval Division were holding a general line in front Ovillers —La Boisselle—Thiepval.

At 12-45 a.m. on 26th orders were issued for the Royal Naval Division to withdraw across the river Ancre during the early hours of the morning; the 188th with 1/R.M.L.I. acting as rearguard were across without incident by 6 a.m., most of the small foot-bridges were destroyed by the Divisional Engineers after the last troops had crossed.

Shortly after the withdrawal from Thiepval Ridge to behind the Arras—Albert Railway the Germans who throughout followed closely, attacked the 1/R.M.L.I. and succeeded in gaining a footing in the position. A successful counter-attack led by Lieutenant G. J. Wharf and Captain and Adjutant R. H. West drove the Germans out and re-established the line: Lieutenant Wharf was killed, he was awarded the Military Cross posthumously; although gassed he set a fine example to his men and engaged the enemy with skill and determination; he had been one of the old long service non-commissioned officers of the Corps and had distinguished himself by his gallantry and efficiency.

Captain R. H. P. West, the Adjutant, who had been badly gassed, carried out his duties with great gallantry and ability and it was largely due to him that the Battalion had been able to withdraw when ordered, he also was awarded the Military Cross.

The Division had now arrived on ground with which it was familiar, for they were again in the neighbourhood of their great fight at Beaumont Hamel.

The position to be taken up was of great natural strength; the river Ancre with its pools served as a valuable obstacle, while the line of the Arras—Albert railway which consisted of a low but formidable embankment, provided a strong defensive position to the east of Aveluy Wood; the trees of the wood were very close and there was an unusually thick undergrowth.

The Royal Naval Division was in position from the south point of Aveluy Wood to Hamel facing the Thiepval Ridge with the 47th Division on the right, and 2nd Division on the left. The 1/R.M.L.I. was in position some 300 yards to the east of Mesnil, while the 2/R.M.L.I. were in support in rear of that village. The 190th were on the right of the Division and 189th on left. The troops had fought continuously and heavily for six days and the march over the old Somme Battlefield had severely tested their endurance. Many were now weary and footsore for the weather had been hot, the roads dusty, and full marching order was carried, and to add to their discomfort there was a shortage of water. Yet the spirit of the Battalions never fell and their conduct throughout, not only upheld the great traditions of the Corps, but indicated from time to time their ability to stand a hard knock as well as to give one.

ATTACHMENT #9

This "*Reporting and Review*" attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Commonwealth Forces during the Great War 1914-1921.The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

Guideline Criteria for Submission:	**Evidence and Source Material:**
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources *e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.* must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material *e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.* should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	**Affiliation**	**E-mail**	**Contribution**
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator & Report Author

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